

**GOSPORT AND ALVERSTOKE
DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. J. HUNTER, L.R.C.P.E., ETC.,

For the Year 1906.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29263396>

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF GOSPORT & ALVERSTOKE,
FOR THE YEAR 1906.

February, 1907.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Nineteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the District of Gosport and Alverstoke for the year ending December 31st, 1906, and in doing so I am pleased to state that the record for the year is not only extremely satisfactory, but compares most favourably with that of any year in the last decade.

The Births constitute a record, the Deaths are only 3 in excess of 1903 which was the record up to that date, whilst the Notifications have reached the low figure of 86. When I mention that the average for the past 14 years works out at 200 exactly, the great decrease in 1906 is notably emphasised.

No Deaths have resulted from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Measles or Erysipelas, whilst of the 5 Deaths from Enteric Fever 4 were recorded at the Naval and Military Establishments. The above facts speak volumes for the healthy condition of the district during 1906.

The abolition of the old Pail System, the introduction of arterial drainage, the efficient work of the Elson Isolation Hospital Staff, and climatic conditions have no doubt contributed largely to such a gratifying result.

STATISTICS.

The Births during the year numbered 915, being 23 in excess of 1905, and as already stated constitute a record for the District.

The Births were apportioned as follows :—

Males	...	479
Females	...	436

		915

The Deaths numbered 451, of which 347 were recorded for the District proper, 67 at the Naval and Military Establishments, 34 at the House of Industry, and 3 at the Elson Isolation Hospital.

The Death Rate for the Whole District works out at 14·78 per 1000, and for the District proper at 14·49 per 1000.

The highest Death Rate occurred in September, when 59 Deaths were recorded, of which 33 were under the age of 1 year

The following Table shows the Births and Deaths recorded during each month of the year, viz. :—

Month.	Births.		Deaths.		Illegitimate Births.
	Males.	Females.	Whole District.	District Proper.	
January ...	47	39	46	38	0
February ...	28	33	42	37	4
March ...	39	30	42	40	3
April ...	32	41	33	28	2
May ...	58	37	29	24	3
June ...	38	31	24	18	1
July ...	40	45	39	30	1
August ...	38	30	26	19	2
September	44	30	59	53	4
October ...	39	41	39	33	2
November	45	39	34	30	3
December...	31	40	38	34	0
Totals ...	479	436	451	384	25

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

For many years past I have called attention to this very important matter, as there is not the shadow of a doubt in my mind that many young lives are heedlessly and needlessly sacrificed every year.

In two Towns in England interesting experiments have been tried with a view to preventing the lamentable waste of life which goes on year by year. At Huddersfield the Mayor on taking office, called attention to the subject, and offered substantial bonuses to mothers who during the year of his Mayoralty successfully nursed their children for twelve months. The incentive thus offered was the means of reducing very considerably the high infant Death Rate of that town.

The same results attended a similar experiment in one of the London Borough Councils last year.

The number of Deaths under 12 months during 1906 was 115. Of this number 34 succumbed during the first month, 12 being prematurely born and 12 dying from inanition or waste.

Diarrhœa was responsible for 40 Deaths, many probably through lack of those precautions which I have so strongly advocated in previous Reports. Improper feeding, want of cleanliness in milk bottles, and closer attention to the children by the Parents would be the means of effecting a great improvement in this direction.

Under the heading "Diarrhœa" I again refer to the mortality amongst infants.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 wk.	Under 2 wks.	Under 3 wks.	Under 4 wks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 mths.	2-3 mths.	3-4 mths.	4-5 mths.	5-6 mths.	6-7 mths.	7-8 mths.	8-9 mths.	9-10 mths.	10-11 mths.	11-12 mths.	Total under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	20	5	3	6	34	10	15	6	8	6	8	5	8	3	3	2	108
	Uncertified						1	1	1	2		1		1				7
Common Infectious Diseases	Small Pox	...																
	Chicken Pox	...																
	Measles	...																
	Scarlet Fever	...																
	Diphtheria Croup	...																
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough...	...																
	Diarrhoea	...																
	Enteritis, etc.	...																
	Gastritis	...																
	Premature Birth	12																
Wasting Diseases	Congenital Defects	...																
	Injury at Birth	...																
	Want of Breast Milk, etc.	...																
	Atrophy Deb'ty, etc	...																
	Tubercular Menin.	...																
Tuberc. Diseases	Tuber. Peritonitis	7	2	2	1	12	3	2										
	Other Tuber. Dis.																	
	Erysipelas																	
	Syphilis																	
	Rickets																	
Other Causes.	Menin. (not Tuber.)	1	1															
	Convulsions																	
	Bronchitis			1														
	Laryngitis																	
	Pneumonia																	
Totals	Suffocation																	
	Other Causes																	
		20	5	3	6	34	11	16	7	10	5	9	4	11	3	3	2	115

No. of Births		No. of Deaths, All Causes		451.
No. of Births	Legitimate			
	Illegitimate			

The following Table of Statistics summarises in concise form the foregoing tables.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions.
				Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.		
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1896	27000	822	30·44	126	153·28	487	18·03	133
1897	27500	739	26·87	112	151·5	498	18·01	124
1898	28000	835	29·82	134	160·5	479	17·10	107
1899	28500	780	27·37	143	183·3	656	23·01	171
1900	29000	823	28·37	135	164·03	606	20·89	163
1901	29000	831	28·65	116	139·58	544	18·75	139
1902	29500	800	27·59	99	123·75	475	16·1	110
1903	30000	854	28·46	82	96·02	448	15·18	116
1904	30000	819	27·3	88	107·	483	16·1	150
1905	30500	892	29·24	112	125·5	509	16·6	121
Averages for years 1896-1905	28900	819·5	28·4	114·7	140·4	518·5	17·97	133·4
1906	30500	915	30·6	115	125·4	451	14·78	104

Total Population at all ages, 1901, 28879. Number of inhabited houses, 5800.

Average number of persons per house, 5·2. Area in Acres, 3843.

The Union Workhouse is within the District.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities at all ages.		
	All ages	Under 1	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards	Nav. & Mil. Hospitals.	House of Industry.	Elson Hospital.
Small Pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough	9	5	4							
Diphtheria and Membranous croup										
Croup										
Enteric Fever	5				1	4		4		1
Other continued Fever	1				1			1		
Epidemic Influenza	5	1				3	1			
Diarrhœa	44	40	3			1		2		
Enteritis	6	1	3			1	1			
Puerperal Fever	3				1	2		1		
Erysipelas										
Phthisis	47			3	13	31		11	2	
Other tubercular diseases	14	3	6		2	3		6		
Cancer	35			1		21	13	3	3	
Bronchitis	19	6	3			3	7	1	1	
Pneumonia	24		5	1	7	8	3	5		1
Pleurisy	1			1						
Other Respiratory diseases	3	1				2		1		
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	5					4	1		1	
Venereal diseases	3	1				2		1	1	
Premature birth	12	12								
Heart diseases	46	2	1	4	9	21	9	7	7	
Accidents	4				1	3		3		
Suicides	1					1		1		
Cerebro Spinal	1			1						1
Appendicitis	3				1	2		3		
All other causes	160	43	9	4	4	45	55	17	19	
All causes	451	115	34	15	40	157	90	67	34	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and the number of Wards in which they have occurred, viz :—

Wards.			Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Diphtheria	Memb. Croup	Contd. Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Total	Removed to Hospital	Rooms Disinfected
Gosport	...	...	9	5	0	0	0	1	4	19	10	13
North Liberty	...	...	10	6	1	0	0	2	5	24	15	20
South Liberty	...	...	23	9	4	0	0	1	6	43	26	33
Total	...	...	42	20	5	0	0	4	15	86	51	66

The Notifications as already mentioned were much below the average of previous years.

Scarlatina has decreased by 138, Enteric by 5, and Diphtheria from 10 to 5. There were no cases notified from Membranous Croup or Continued Fever, though a Death occurred from the latter in the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar.

The North Liberty Ward stands best in the matter of Notifications, though the record of all three is extremely satisfactory. The admissions to Hospital decreased from 126 to 51.

TABLE OF CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL, 1906.

WARD.	Jan.	Feb.		March.			April.	May		June	July		Aug.	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.	Dec.			Total	TOTAL.			
		Scarlatina	Enteric	Scarlatina	Enteric	Diphtheria		Scarlatina	Enteric		Scarlatina	Enteric		Scarlatina	Enteric	Scarlatina	Enteric		Diphtheria	Scarlatina	Enteric		Diphtheria			
Gosport	1																									
North	3		1	1			1	1	1		3						1		3				10	6	4	
South	7		1				4		1			1	1	2	2			1		3	1		26	17	6	3
Total	11		2	1	1	1	7	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	2	2	1	51	34	13	4	

ENTERIC FEVER.

A marked diminution is noticeable under this heading, in fact, the record is one of the most satisfactory it has been my pleasure and privilege to report.

Out of 20 Notifications received only 1 Death occurred at the Hospital at Elson, the patient when admitted being in a very bad state, suffering from various complications.

Four Deaths were recorded from the Naval and Military Establishments.

SCARLET FEVER.

The cases notified under this heading were all of a very mild type indeed. There were no Deaths from the disease.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Five Notifications under Diphtheria only were received; none from Croup. From neither disease were there any Deaths

Again I repeat, the provision of a Diphtheria Ward at the Hospital has proved most beneficial.

MEASLES AND ERYSIPELAS.

No Deaths occurred from either of these diseases, indeed the district was singularly immune from sickness of any sort during 1906 with the exception of Diarrhœa in September and October.

DIARRHŒA.

From this disease Infantile Mortality was very considerably increased, particularly in September last, during which month alone 27 Deaths were recorded.

Climatic conditions are often favourable to epidemicity of Diarrhœa and the causes and dissemination of the disease may be favoured thereby. High air temperature conduces to it. A certain earth heat is necessary for the propagation of epidemic Diarrhœa. A moderate dampness of the earth and porosity of soil are favourable adjuncts, whilst density of population, want of free ventilation, and lack

of cleanliness in the homes are all provocative agencies in spreading the disease. The artificial feeding of Infants, the ingestion of food kept in dark and badly ventilated places, and the want of sterilized milk, all tend to incite the disease.

Infants are intended by nature to be nursed and nourished by and from the Mother. If the mother is young and healthy and the child well born there should be no question as to diet of the Infant at least during the first 12 months of its life.

It is the indiscreet feeding of children with artificial foods which do not easily assimilate which is the source of much of the trouble.

Where circumstances prevent the mother from nursing the child from the breast, cow's milk should be substituted which should however be given in diluted form, as too often it is too strong in its natural state for the digestive organs, the result being formation of curds in the stomach with its consequent results, gastric and intestinal irritation. Wherever this is apparent it is evident that dilution is necessary. I am strongly in favour of barley water being used for the purpose of dilution.

It would be better also if mothers gave their infants their food in small quantities but more frequently, the constant desire for food on the part of the infants being more easily appeased, with less danger to their digestive organs.

CONSUMPTION OR PHTHISIS AND OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

From Phthisis or Consumption there were 47 Deaths, 13 of which were recorded in the Naval and Military Hospitals.

From Tubercular Diseases there were 14 Deaths, 6 of which were in the Government Establishments named.

Consumption or Tuberculosis is one of the most widespread and deadly diseases affecting the country. It is infectious and depends on the presence of living parasites in the tissues of the body.

It is spread in many ways.

Tuberculosis of the Lungs is known as Consumption. Tuberculosis of the Glands of the Abdomen is known as Consumption of the Bowels.

The disease is spread by infective dust and also by the ingestion of infected food, especially milk.

Enormous numbers of the micro-organisms are contained in the copious expectorations of a consumptive person and whenever or wherever this is deposited, whether on the floors of places of amusements, or in the public streets, or in fact anywhere, it is infective, not only at the time of expectoration, but even after it has dried up and become a sort of dust. Months may elapse and still the germs contained in this dust may be the means of causing tuberculosis, and unless treatment is afforded in the earliest stages of the disease it will spread from the lungs to the intestines with eventually fatal results.

The disease may also be contracted by the ingestion of tuberculous meat or milk. Here in this latter case arises a danger to infant life, where the infants are fed on milk obtained from milch cows who are often prone to tubercular diseases.

In combating the disease, it is highly essential that the patient should live in the open air as much as possible, avoiding as far as possible gloomy or dismal surroundings, as sunlight rapidly destroys the virulence of the bacilli.

To prevent Phthisis, all places or materials infected should be disinfected as soon as possible, and the discharges especially expectorative, should be disposed of in a safe manner. The avoidance of all food likely to be contaminated by tuberculous products, the abolition of all insanitary areas, the sterilizing of milk before use as food, and the adoption of means to prevent the suckling of infants by consumptive mothers would all tend largely to minimise the ravages of this disease.

With reference to dairy stock, all animals affected with Coughing, Diarrhoea, or sweating should be isolated, as whilst in contact with healthy animals the latter are endangered.

For milch cows open air life is most desirable. The feeding of cows should not be allowed from troughs in the pastures; they should be taken into the sheds and given their ordinary manger food. The cleansing and disinfection of cowsheds should be always insisted upon, the free use of water being most important.

Overcrowding of animals, imperfect ventilation, filthy surroundings, sweeping and dry brushing should all be avoided.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1906.

Under 10 Yrs.	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	Total.
1	2	7	7	6	5	5	2	8	3	1	47

WHERE DEATHS OCCURRED.

District	Haslar Hospital	House of Industry	Children's Home.	Total
35	9	2	1	47

OCCUPATIONS.

No Occupation	Naval Pensioner	Army Pensioner	Civil Service Pensioner	Merchant Seaman	Retired Army Officer.	Navy	R.M.L.I.	Painter	Domestic Ser.	Indoor Porter.	Min. Water Manufacturer.	Bricklayer	Labourer	Clerk	Schoolmistress	Apprentices	Blacksmith	Gen. Dealer	Grocer Assist.	Total
11	3	4	1	1	1	6	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	47

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

During the past year the Surveyor's Department has been very busy with drainage work and general improvements and developments.

The following list shows plans which have been approved from January 1st, 1906, to December 31st, 1906.

- 101 New Houses,
- 15 Shops, etc.,
- 17 Alterations to Buildings,
- 4 Stores,
- 1 New School,
- 1 Convalescent Home,
- 3 Various New Buildings,
- 1 New Street.

In my last Report I referred to the desirability of making up a number of Private Streets and back roads. Three Private Streets have since been made up. I find the Council are about to proceed with a number of others.

It is desirable that all slop water should be connected with the new system as soon as possible. There is no reason now for persons to commit nuisances by discharging foul liquids into the street channels or moats, and it is most satisfactory to find that the Drainage Committee are using special efforts to get owners to connect up.

The Back Drainage Scheme being carried out is very greatly facilitating this work for owners, but there are still a number who defer the work, and the Council I understand have decided in these cases to discontinue the responsibility for attending to the privy pans.

The efficiency of ventilation in the Sewers will no doubt be greatly improved by the New Sewer Gas Destructors recently fixed.

As the drainage work is completed, the Health Committee should press the owners of property to attend to the paving of yards, etc., in the vicinity of houses as I find in some of the older tenement properties this is so often most neglected and insanitary. There is also a deal of dilapidated cottage property, more especially in the town area.

It is anticipated that the new water supply will be available during the present year, an intermittent supply of water being very unsatisfactory, more especially here, having regard to the system of drainage.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.

The condition of the Workshops has been generally satisfactory, and the same close attention has been given to seeing the requirements of the Act carried out.

1. INSPECTION.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	64	1	
Workplaces (other than out-workers' premises included in Part 3) ...			
Totals	64	1	

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Insp.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Act (want of cleanliness) ...	1	1		
Nuisances under the Public Health Act (overcrowding)	1	1		
Totals	2	2		

3. HOME WORK.
OUTWORKERS' LIST, SECTION 107.

Nature of Work	List received from Employers.		No. of Addresses of Out-workers received from other Councils.	No. of Addresses of Out-workers forwarded to other Councils.	Prosecutions		No. of Inspections of Outworkers premises.
	Once in the Year.				Failing to permit or keep Inspection Lists.	Failing to send Lists.	
	Lists.	Out-workers.					
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	6	34	14	17			35
Total ...	6	34	14	17			35

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (S. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
106	106
Total	106

ROUTINE WORK.

The Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops, the Bakehouses and the Slaughterhouses have been regularly visited and reported upon, and I am pleased to report favourably as to the general condition of the various premises. Where any exception has been taken, the matter has been readily attended to and made right.

I have again to express my entire appreciation as to the manner in which the late Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. H. Beel, and his Assistant, Mr. C. Carswell (now Sanitary Inspector), carried out the duties of their respective offices.

Mr. Beel's death took place in July last after an illness of six months, thus bringing to a close a period of 21 year's service under the Council. Mr. Beel was a very efficient officer, and his work was always performed to my satisfaction.

In Mr. Carswell the Council have a zealous and painstaking Officer who I am sure will see that the work of his Department is carried out in a thorough and efficient manner.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY THE INSPECTOR AND ASSISTANT INSPECTOR.

	Inspector— J. H. Beel.	Inspector— C. W. Carswell	Assistant Inspector.	Total.
Infectious Diseases investi- gated by Medical Officer of Health and Inspector		29	52	81
Inspection of Nuisances and attending to complaints	24	92	225	341
Visits <i>re</i> Sanitary matters	92	493	735	1320
Visits paid to—				
Slaughter Houses ...	18	200	253	471
Fried Fish Shops ...		23	5	28
Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops ...	3	52	68	123
Bakehouses ...	4	26	3	33
Workshops ...	3	15	13	31
Outworkers ...		35	0	35
Common Lodging Houses	1	70	85	156
Piggeries ...		78	68	146
Houses under the Hous- ing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 ...		25	4	29
Total ...	145	1138	1511	2794

NOTICES SERVED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

Privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	22
Earth Closets converted to Water Closets	...	...	10
Cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	...	44
Defective Soil Pans renewed	...	...	27
Choked Drains cleared	...	...	12
Privy Cesspits emptied and cleansed	...	...	6
Manure or offensive accumulations removed		...	4
Defective Spouting removed	...	...	4
Cleanse Slaughter Houses	...	...	2
„ Lodging Houses	...	...	2
„ Stables, etc.	...	...	2
Repair Pigsties	...	...	2
„ Roof	...	...	1
Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance	...	...	1
Defective Channelling made good	...	...	1
Premises cleansed	...	...	1
Cases of Overcrowding dealt with	...	...	3
Lime-wash Bakehouse	...	...	1
Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act		...	8
Total			153

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER AND
THE LIBRARIAN.

Ward.			School Attendance Officer.	Librarian.
Gosport	...	...	12	1
North	...	...	12	0
South	...	...	33	2
Total	...	...	57	3

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Since the Isolation Hospital was opened in 1899 its benefits to the community have been great, and its effects far reaching. The following table shows clearly what has been done during the 7 years.

Year.	No. Admitted.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric.	Diphtheria.	Deaths.		
					S. F.	E.	D.
1899	91	56	35		1	1	
1900	91	37	51	3	1	1	
1901	63	22	41			3	
1902	71	45	26				
1903	114	108	6		2	1	
1904	103	69	27	7		5	1
1905	126	111	9	6	1	1	2
1906	51	34	13	4		3	

The above figures speak for themselves, and also testify to the skill and care of the Matron and her Staff at the Hospital.

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the following particulars which are interesting, viz. :—

No. of Births as registered from 1st Jan., to 31st Dec., 1906.	Number successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Had Small Pox.	Number in respect of Certificates of conscientious objections.	Dead. Un-vaccinated.	Postponement by Medical Certificate.	Removal to other Districts, etc.	Number of these Births remaining not temporarily accounted for.
915	750	2	0	7	65	6	6	79

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN J. HUNTER, L.R.C.P.E., etc.,

Fellow Ry. Institute Public Health,
Fellow Incorporated Society, Medical Officers of Health,
Member of Sanitary Institute of Great Britain,
Medical Officer of Health, Gosport and Alverstoke Urban District.